

Winter-holiday-themed events among the 10 special programs at the museums of the state of Delaware in December 2014

The museums of the State of Delaware will be sponsoring 10 special events during the month of December 2014. Five of these programs will feature winter-holiday-themed activities. A full schedule is included below. All programs are free and open to the public. For additional information, call 302-744-5055.



John Dickinson Plantation

Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the [six museums of the State of Delaware](#)—the New Castle Court House Museum, the John Dickinson Plantation, the First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries, The Old State House, the Johnson Victrola Museum and the Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State's contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through displays, exhibits and special programs, the museums explore how the state's distinctive physical environment, in combination with the people who came to live there, gave Delaware an identity that is different from any other place.

Special events, December 2014

Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014

"Hospitality Night." Holiday-themed program featuring festive décor, music, demonstrations and seasonal refreshments. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 6–9 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

"A Taste of Jazz: From the Beginning." Guided tours explore the sounds of the Jazz Age and the role played by Delaware's native son, E.R. Johnson in jazz-music history, accompanied by early-jazz recordings played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

"Handmade for the Holidays." Seasonal program in which visitors can create a sachet with herbs and spices. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

"Tour Zwaanendael Museum." Enjoy the museum's festive holiday-décor. Event held in conjunction with the Lewes Historical Society's [Christmas Tour of Lewes](#). [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

"Simple Pleasures: Picnic, Play and Dance." Utilizing authentic clothing and objects from the collections of the state of Delaware, Ann Baker Horsey, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' curator of collections, will discuss Edwardian and Roaring '20s fall and winter recreational activities and their associated fashions that reflected the spirit of the liberated "modern" woman. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

"An Illegal Activity." Utilizing the exhibit "[An Illegal Activity: The Underground Railroad in Delaware](#)" as a backdrop, guided tours will explore Delaware's crucial role

in the Underground Railroad and on two Delaware leaders who aided in this “freedom enterprise.” [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#), Delaware Public Archives building, 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. Tours at Noon and 2 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

Delaware Day awards ceremony. Event honors participants in the Delaware Department of State’s 13th annual [Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition](#) which challenges students to create displays that help illustrate and explain the U.S. Constitution and the role played by Delawareans in the writing and ratification of the nation’s founding document. [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#), 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. Time TBA. 302-739-4111.
Recently added program.

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014

[Spirit of Christmas in New Castle](#). One of the best preserved Colonial-era towns in America will feature tours of historic homes bedecked in holiday decorations, activities at museums including the [New Castle Court House Museum](#), crafts, musical entertainment and more. Festivities will conclude at 5 p.m. with the annual Christmas tree lighting at Market Square. Downtown New Castle. 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. 302-328-3279.



New Castle Court House
Museum

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014

Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild. Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014

“Handmade for the Holidays.” Seasonal program in which visitors can create a plaster ornament. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Exhibits and displays, December 2014

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is presenting the following exhibits and displays:

Thru Dec. 7, 2014 ~~Thru July 31, 2014~~

[“An Illegal Activity: The Underground Railroad in Delaware.”](#)

Exhibit explores the First State’s role in the Underground Railroad by showcasing Thomas Garrett and Samuel D. Burris and the actions they took in following their consciences rather than the law. Presented in partnership with the Underground Railroad Coalition of Delaware. [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#), Delaware Public Archives building, 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055. **Note change in closing date.**

Ongoing

[“Delaware and the War of 1812.”](#) Exhibit examines the service and sacrifice of Delawareans of 1812 to 1815, and the important role that the state played in a conflict that helped shaped the development of the United States. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. from Nov. 1–March 31. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. 302-645-1148.



Zwaanendael Museum

Ongoing

["Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey From Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad."](#) Exhibit chronicles the compelling story of Emeline Hawkins and her family and their 1845 odyssey on the Underground Railroad from slavery in Maryland, through Delaware to freedom in Pennsylvania. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

["A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World."](#) Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty's Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798 to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. from Nov. 1–March 31. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

["Simple Machines."](#) Exhibit demonstrating the six "simple machines"—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John](#)

[Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover.
Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Ongoing

“Simple Pleasures: Picnic, Play and Dance.” Display of original Edwardian and roaring 20s fashions that reflect the spirit of the liberated “modern” woman as depicted in the Downton Abbey television series. From the collections of the state of Delaware. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

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